

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A tool for at least one of cutting and noncutting treatment of a metallic component, comprising:
 - a shank-shaped section including a tool section subject to wear and a cavity;
 - an arrangement configured to admit a pressure medium to the cavity to monitor operability of the tool; and
 - a monitoring device configured to generate a signal in accordance with a pressure change in the pressure medium,

wherein the shank-shaped section includes a predetermined breaking point.
2. (Original) The tool according to claim 1, wherein the metallic component includes a cast component.
3. (Original) The tool according to claim 1, wherein the cavity includes a blind bore in the shank-shaped section.
4. (Original) The tool according to claim 1, wherein the tool is configured as an interchangeable unit, the arrangement configured to admit the pressure medium including an arrangement configured to admit compressed air to the cavity by connecting lines.
5. (Original) The tool according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring device includes a pressure switch configured to react at a preset value of a pressure change.
- Claim 6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The tool according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein the breaking point is configured as a local reduction in diameter at the tool section.

8. (Currently Amended) The tool according to claim 1, wherein the tool section is configured as a blanking punch or as a trimming tool for a cast part, the tool section including a cutting edge and a predetermined breaking point reduced in diameter relative to the shank-shaped section.

9. (Original) The tool according to claim 1, wherein the tool section includes a mandrel configured to shape a metal sheet.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of monitoring operability of a tool for at least one of cutting and noncutting treatment of a component, the tool including a shank-shaped section and a cavity to which a pressure medium is admittable, comprising:
admitting compressed air to a blind bore in the tool;
generating a signal if a preset value of a pressure change of the compressed air is exceeded in accordance with a fracture of the tool; and
monitoring a function of the tool in accordance with the pressure change.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the component includes a cast component.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
monitoring a plurality of tools of a treatment complex in accordance with a single pressure switch coupled to a control unit;
generating a warning signal by the control unit via a signal generating device in accordance with a failure of at least one of the plurality of tools.

13. (Currently Amended) A tool for at least one of cutting and noncutting treatment of a metallic component, comprising:
a shank-shaped section including a tool section subject to wear and a cavity;
means for admitting a pressure medium to the cavity for monitoring operability of the tool; and
monitoring means for generating a signal in accordance with a pressure change in the pressure medium,
wherein the shank-shaped section includes a predetermined breaking point.

14. (Previously Presented) The tool according to claim 1, further comprising an arrangement configured to perform a method that includes admitting compressed air to a blind bore in the tool; generating a signal if a preset value of a pressure change of the compressed air is exceeded in accordance with a fracture of the tool; and monitoring a function of the tool in accordance with the pressure change.

15. (Previously Presented) The tool according to claim 13, further comprising means for performing a method that includes: admitting compressed air to a blind bore in the tool; generating a signal if a preset value of a pressure change of the compressed air is exceeded in accordance with a fracture of the tool; and monitoring a function of the tool in accordance with the pressure change.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the tool includes a monitoring device configured to generate the signal in accordance with the pressure.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the tool includes monitoring means for generating the signal in accordance with the pressure change.

18. (New) The tool according to claim 7, wherein the local reduction in diameter includes a ring-like notch.